

Sleep Physiology Research

French to Perform Sleep Physiology Research in the Kerguelen Islands: Dr. J. Rivolier, Chief of the Medical Staff for Antarctic Exploration for the French, is planning an expedition to climb Mt. Ross in the Kerguelen Islands in February 1975. The purpose is to conduct physiological research during the climb. Rivolier is particularly interested in the effects of environment on sleep and plans to make EEG recordings and other unspecified physiological measurements. The research may be funded by the military since Rivolier acts as a consultant to the army in helping select personnel for isolated posts. (C)

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Comment: The purpose of this research includes the procurement of physiological data with which to substantiate or refute claims made by the Soviets and others concerning sleep anomalies which are experienced supposedly only in the southern hemisphere near the Antarctic continent. During the 6500-foot climb, Rivolier will be able to study the effects on sleep of cold, severe winds, and the added physical stresses of the climb. This expedition is the latest in a series of experiments by Rivolier. A current 2-year comparative study of French military personnel at the research station in the Kerguelen Islands and on the Adelie coast of Antarctica is concerned with sleep of personnel who normally perform routine duties and are billeted in barracks.

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